

Message Text

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S E C R E T JIDDA 0306

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, EG, US

SUBJECT: TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN SAUDI F-5 PROGRAM

REF STATE 7742, JIDDA 0240

SUMMARY: ON JAN 14 EMBASSY REVIEWED WITH CHUSMTM GEN AHMANN LATEST STATUS OF EGYPTIAN F-5 TRAINEES. RSAF NOW PREPARED TO COMPLETE EGYPTIAN PILOT TRAINING IN NEXT 8 WEEKS USING ONLY SAUDI INSTRUCTOR PILOTS. BY JAN 24 EGYPTIAN MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL WILL HAVE LEARNED ALL THEY CAN FROM SAUDI INSTRUCTORS. THEREAFTER AT LEAST 4 WEEKS OF NORTHROP TECHNICAL TRAINING WILL BE NEEDED, FOLLOWED BY 6 WEEKS OJT TO COMPLETE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. GOE AND SAG MAY BE PLAYING WAITING TO FORCE USG TO CONTINUE PROGRAM OR ACCEPT OPPROBRIUM OF ENDING IT. WE RECOMMEND WASHINGTON CONSIDER ALLOWING PROGRAM TO RUN ITS ENTIRE COURSE: NO AMCITS NEED BE INVOLVED IN PILOT TRAINING AND NO USAF PERSONNEL IN MAINTENANCE TRAINING. LATTER PROGRAM REQUIRES ONLY 4 WEEKS DIRECT TRAINING BY NORTHROP AMERICANS. IF PROGRAM CONTINUED, WE WOULD ACCEPT FOR NEXT TWO MONTHS RISK OF A LEAK. BUT THE SAG AND GOE WOULDN'T BE MAD AT US, AND WE WOULD NOT BE DOING ANYTHING VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE DONE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JAN 14, EMBASSY REVIEWED IN JIDDA WITH CHUSMTM GENERAL AHMANN, TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS

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OF F-5'S. GENERAL AHMANN PROVIDED FOLLOWING UP-

DATE: TWO EGYPTIAN PILOTS HAVE NOW SOLOED THE F-5E, AND REMAINING FOUR PILOTS ARE CONTINUING INSTRUCTION WITH RSAF INSTRUCTOR PILOTS ON TWO-SEATER F-5 TRAINER MODEL. WE ARE INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT RSAF IS AGREEABLE ITSELF TO COMPLETE THE F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS. ONLY RSAF INSTRUCTORS WOULD BE USED, AND THE COMPLETION OF THE EGYPTIAN PILOT TRAINING WOULD INVOLVE NO RPT NO AMERICAN CITIZEN PERSONNEL.

2. THE NINE EGYPTIAN MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS COMPLETED ELT ON JAN 13, 1976. RSAF HAS NOW AGREED TO USE RSAF INSTRUCTORS (NOT NORTHROP INSTRUCTORS) TO CARRY ON THE EGYPTIAN CLASSROOM INSTRUCTOR UP TO JAN 24. BEYOND JAN 24, EGYPTIAN TRAINEES WILL HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE THEY CAN NO LONGER BE INSTRUCTED BY RSAF PERSONNEL. WITH REGARDS TO THE EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS, WE THEREFORE HAVE ANOTHER WEEK FOR GOE TO ACT UPON WITHDRAWAL, AS PROMISED TO MR. ATHERTON. UNDER PRESENT GUIDANCE, FROM DOD, HOWEVER, CHUSMTM WILL HAVE TO ADVISE RSAF ON JAN 21, 1976 THAT NORTHROP MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTORS CANNOT BE USED TO PROVIDE CLASSROOM TRAINING FOR EGYPTIANS. THIS WILL EFFECTIVELY END THE TRAINING FOR MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS FOR REASON MENTIONED ABOVE.

3. THE SAG AND GOE MAY BE PLAYING A WAITING GAME TO FORCE USG TO BE THE CULPRIT IN CUTTING OFF EGYPTIAN TRAINING. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THEREFORE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION, WHICH WOULD ALLOW EGYPTIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS TO RUN UNTIL COMPLETION. THE EGYPTIAN PILOTS COULD BE PERMITTED TO COMPLETE THEIR TRAINING UNDER SAUDI AUSPICES. THIS WOULD INVOLVE MERELY A CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITY THEY HAVE ALREADY CONDUCTED; IT WOULD NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR MISSION UP TO NOW. AS FOR THE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS, IF NORTHROP INSTRUCTORS

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(NOT RPT NOT USAF) CAN BE ALLOWED TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY FOUR WEEKS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION, THE EGYPTIAN MAINTENANCE PORTION OF THE TRAINING CAN THEN BE WOULD UP BY SIX WEEKS OF ON-THE-JOB TRAINING. DURING THESE LAST SIX WEEKS, EGYPTIANS WOULD PRIMARILY BE OBSERVING MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AS PERFORMED BY SAUDIS AND SUPERVISED BY AMERICANS.

4. IF THIS COURSE OF ACTION IS ACCEPTED BY DEPARTMENT, PROGRAM COULD CONTINUE UNTIL TERMINATED BY GOE, OR RUN TO ITS NATURAL TERMINATION DATE IN APRIL 1976. WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO ANTAGONIZE EITHER SAG OR GOE BY BEING THE CULPRIT WHO CUTS OFF TRAINING. (WE OF COURSE WOULD SEE THAT SUCH PROGRAMS WERE NOT RESUMED UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES BECAME MORE PROPITIOUS.)

5. IN BRIEF, WE THINK THAT TO ALLOW THE PROGRAM TO CONTINUE AS OUTLINED ABOVE, WOULD NOT MUCH INCREASE THE NATURE OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN EGYPTIAN TRAINING PROGRAMS. IT WOULD MEAN DRAWING OUT THE RISK OF EXPOSURE AND CRITICISM FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO MONTHS, ASSUMING THE GOE DOES NOT IN THE MEANTIME CANCEL.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO PROPOSAL.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS CAIRO.
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